

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-6. (cancelled)

- 5 7. (previously presented) A method for generating a watermark  
on a photo picture using a thermal printer; the thermal  
printer comprising a thermal printhead for heating an ink  
ribbon and generating an image through the ink ribbon on a  
photo picture; the ink ribbon comprising a plurality of  
10 sequentially arranged color frames, each color frame  
comprising a plurality of dye frames with different color  
dyes and a dye frame with overcoating; the method comprising:  
using the thermal printhead to heat a color frame with a  
plurality of different color dyes and to sublimate the  
15 color dyes on a photo picture; and  
using the thermal printhead to heat at least two different  
areas of the overcoating dye frame by at least two  
distinct time periods to dispose overcoating in at  
least two distinct thicknesses corresponding to the  
20 two distinct time periods to form a watermark image  
over the sublimated colored dye of the photo picture.
8. (previously presented) The method of claim 7 further  
comprising dividing the photo picture into two portions,  
25 wherein thin overcoating is printed on one portion and thick  
overcoating is printed on another portion to form the  
watermark image.
9. (previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the  
30 watermark image is selected from a group consisting of: a  
printed-letter watermark, a hidden information watermark,  
a signature, and a special pattern.